

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07  
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01  
SAJ-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05  
/090 W

-----072027Z 106549 /44

R 071815Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4538

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

S E C R E T BONN 00390

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR, UK, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: FORCE ANOMALIES AND THE COUNTING  
RULES DISCUSSION

1. DURING OUR CONVERSATION WITH RUTH ABOUT RED DATA  
ON JANUARY 7 (SEPTTEL), HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE FRG  
WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF FORCE ANOMALIES  
IN BRUSSELS. RUTH EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT IT WAS  
IMPORTANT FOR THE ALLIANCE TO FORMULATE ITS POSITION  
ON THIS ISSUE.

2. AS A FIRST STEP, RUTH THOUGHT THE ALLIES SHOULD  
UPDATE THE FIGURES FOR THE ANOMALOUS FORCES IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEW DATA. FOLLOWING THIS, THE  
ALLIANCE SHOULD DISCUSS THE PROBLEM WITHIN THE CONTEXT  
OF THE COUNTING RULES/DEFINITIONS DISCUSSION, SINCE IT  
WILL PLAY A ROLE IN THIS MATTER.

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3. RUTH FELT THIS WORK SHOULD BE DONE IN NATO AND HE  
SAID THE FRG HOPED TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO IT "BEFORE  
TOO LONG." ONE THING THE FRG PLANNED WAS TO TRY TO  
DEFINE PRECISELY WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT.

4. RUTH SAID HE COULD ENVISAGE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN  
"COUNTING CRITERIA" AND "COUNTING RULES." HE DEFINED

"COUNTING CRITERIA" AS THE "DEFINITION OF THE PERSONNEL TO BE INCLUDED." RUTH SAID THIS WOULD BE CAST BASICALLY IN NEGATIVE TERMS, I.E., FORCES TO BE EXCLUDED SUCH AS CIVILIANS, RESERVISTS, ETC. RUTH THEN DEFINED "COUNTING RULES" AS "METHODS OF COUNTING THAT PERSONNEL." HERE HE HAD IN MIND SUCH THINGS AS SPECIFYING THE DATE UPON WHICH FORCES WOULD BE COUNTED.

5. RUTH SAID HE HAD NOT USED THE WORD "DEFINITIONS" BECAUSE IT HAD BEEN USED IN VIENNA WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE "REDEFINITION OF FORCES" DISCUSSION ABOUT ANOMALIES.

6. COMMENT: RUTH IS OBVIOUSLY STILL AT AN EARLY STAGE IN THINKING ABOUT THESE CONCEPTS. HOWEVER, HE HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT THE U.S. PERCEIVES BOTH OF THE DEFINITIONS SET FORTH ABOVE TO BE SUBSUMED UNDER THE TERM "COUNTING RULES." THIS MAY ALL SOUND A LITTLE THEOLOGICAL, BUT RUTH BELIEVES THERE IS A USEFUL DISTINCTION TO BE DRAWN AND HE IS LOOKING FOR HELP AS TO HOW THAT COULD BEST BE DONE. THOUGH RUTH'S CONCEPT IS RATHER HAZY AT THE MOMENT, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO BE READY TO DISCUSS A GERMAN PAPER ON THIS PROBLEM. ANY ADVANCE SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS WOULD, OF COURSE, BE MOST WELCOME.

7. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE INFORMATION IN PARAGRAPH 1 ABOVE IS AT VARIANCE WITH USNATO OO64, WHICH WAS RECEIVED AFTER WE SAW RUTH.

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